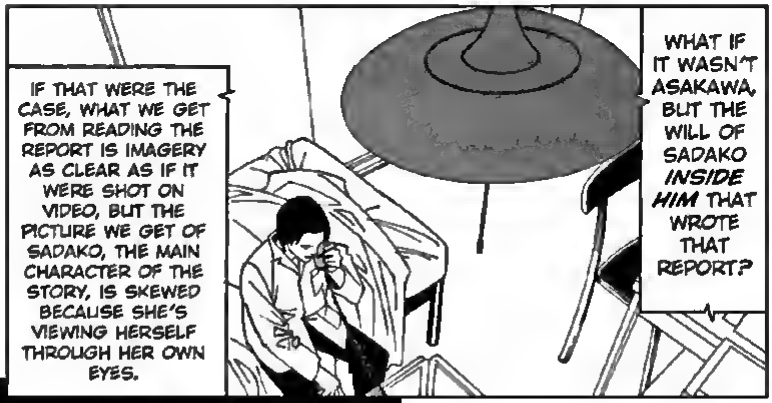
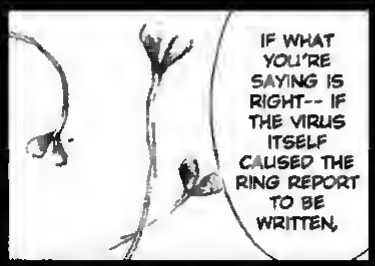
WHAT?


IF THAT WERE THE CASE, WHAT WE GET FROM READING THE REPORT IS IMAGERY AS CLEAR AS IF IT WERE SHOT ON VIDEO, BUT THE PICTURE WE GET OF SADAKO, THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THE STORY, IS SKEWED BECAUSE SHE'S VIEWING HERSELF THROUGH HER OWN EYES.
WHAT IF IT WASN'T ASAKAWA, BUT THE WILL OF SADAKO *INSIDE HIM* THAT WROTE THAT REPORT?

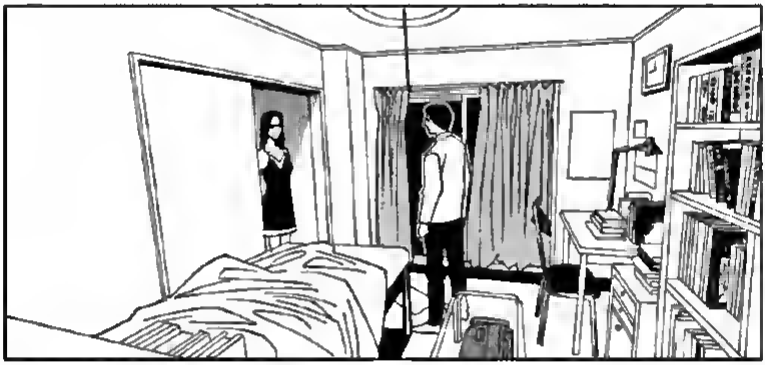

IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS RIGHT-- IF THE VIRUS ITSELF CAUSED THE RING REPORT TO BE WRITTEN,

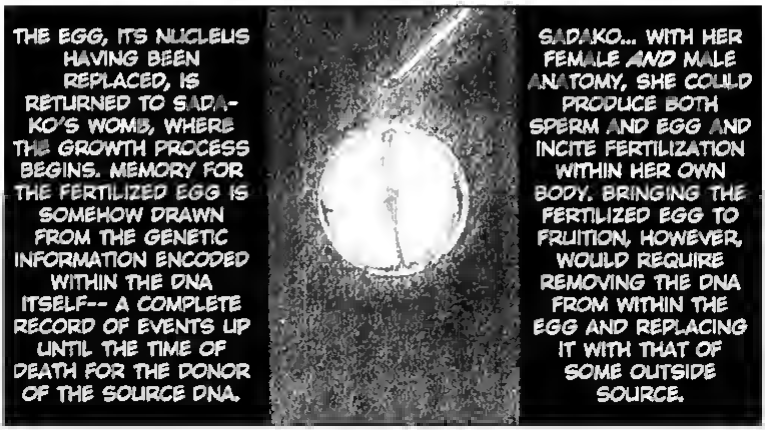
WHAT?
THAT'S IT! I THINK I'VE GOT THE CONNEC-TION!

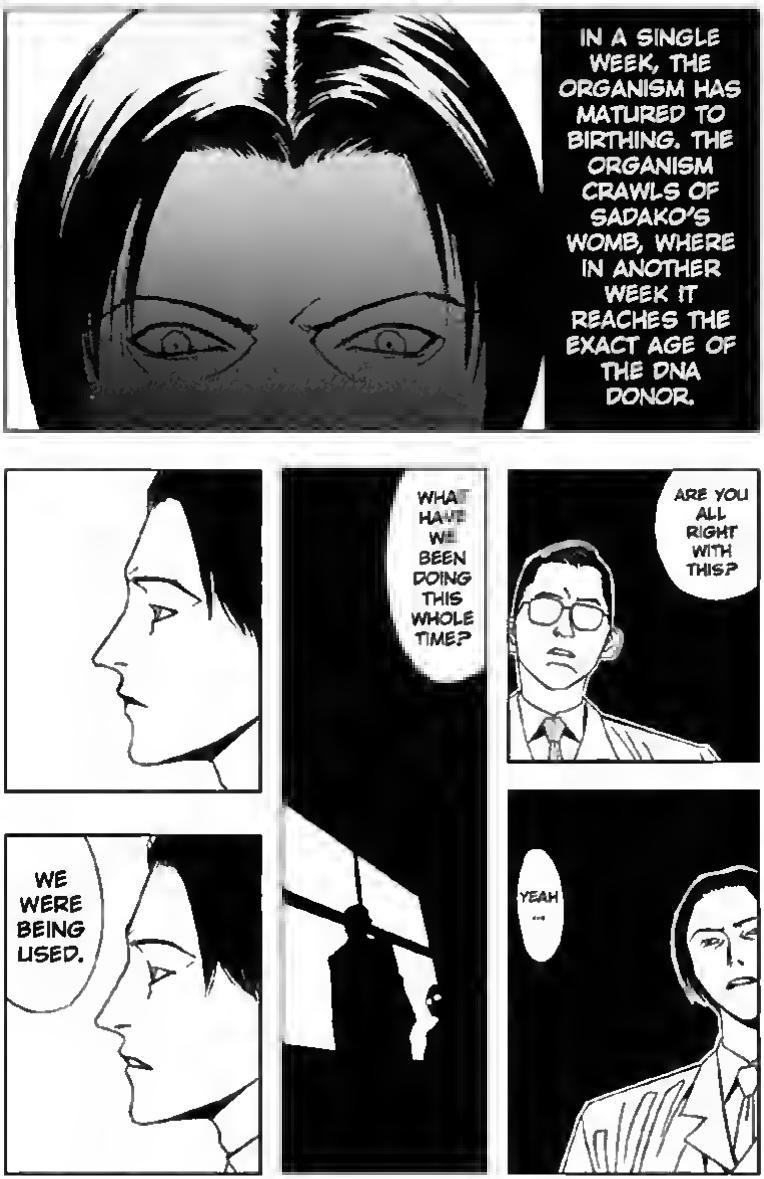
AND SIMPLY READING THAT REPORT WOULD CAUSE THE READER TO CONTRACT THE VIRUS--
THEN THE ROLE OF SPREADING THE VIRUS FALLS TO ASAKAWA, THE BEARER OF THE VIRUS.
SO EVEN THOUGH ASAKAWA WAS A GUY AND COULDN'T GIVE BIRTH LIKE MAI, HE COULD STILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS BY WRITING THE REPORT!
THAT COULD BE IT.
AND IF BLOOD-WORK PICKS UP THE VIRUS INSIDE US AS WELL...
LOOK, LET'S JUST WORRY ABOUT ONE THING AT A TIME. FOR NOW, I'LL GO AHEAD AND FAX SADAKO'S PHOTO OVER TO YOU.
OK. I'M HANGING UP NOW.

MY GOD.
IT CAN'T BE...

YAMA-
MURA...
SADA...
KO!



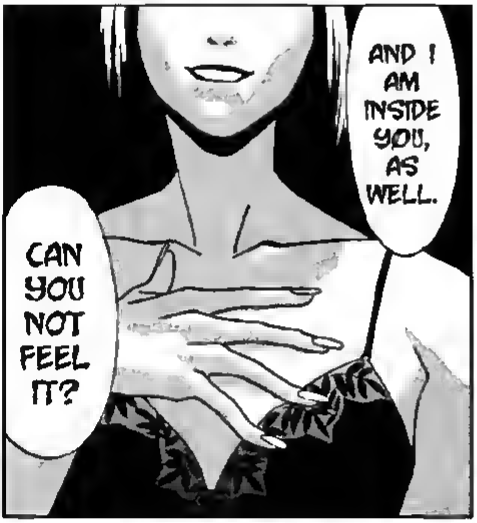

THE EGG, ITS NUCLEUS HAVING BEEN REPLACED, IS RETURNED TO SADAKO'S WOMB, WHERE THE GROWTH PROCESS BEGINS. MEMORY FOR THE FERTILIZED EGG IS SOMEHOW DRAWN FROM THE GENETIC INFORMATION ENCODED WITHIN THE DNA ITSELF-- A COMPLETE RECORD OF EVENTS UP UNTIL THE TIME OF DEATH FOR THE DONOR OF THE SOURCE DNA.
SADAKO... WITH HER FEMALE AND MALE ANATOMY, SHE COULD PRODUCE BOTH SPERM AND EGG AND INCITE FERTILIZATION WITHIN HER OWN BODY. BRINGING THE FERTILIZED EGG TO FRUITION, HOWEVER, WOULD REQUIRE REMOVING THE DNA FROM WITHIN THE EGG AND REPLACING IT WITH THAT OF SOME OUTSIDE SOURCE.

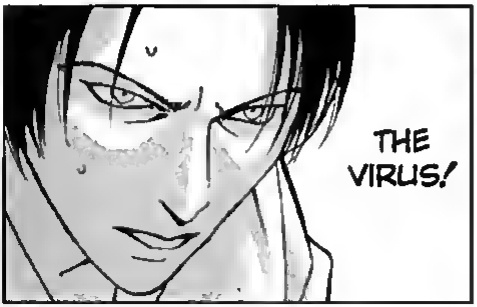

IN A SINGLE WEEK, THE ORGANISM HAS MATURED TO BIRTHING. THE ORGANISM CRAWLS OF SADAKO'S WOMB, WHERE IN ANOTHER WEEK IT REACHES THE EXACT AGE OF THE DNA DONOR.
WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING THIS WHOLE TIME?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT WITH THIS?
WE WERE BEING USED.
YEAH ...

YAMA ... MURA
SADA-KO!
IT CAN'T BE!
IT IS. I AM SA-DA-KO.
NO! SA-DAKO IS DEAD!
YET HERE I STAND.

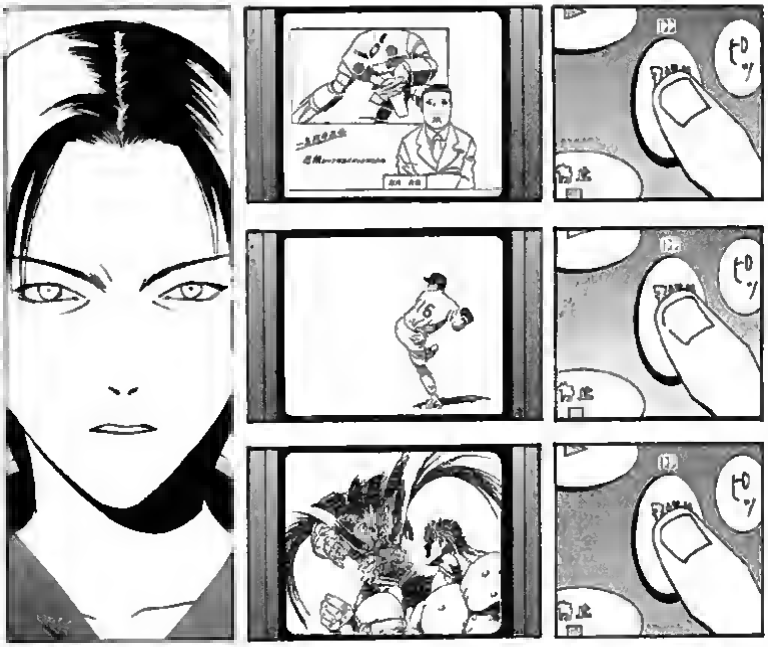
FROM TAKANO MAI.
WHERE... WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
THE CHILD MAI GAVE BIRTH TO... IT WAS YOU?!
MY GOD!
INFORMATION ONTO VIDEOTAPE, AND THAT WHEN TAKANO MAI VIEWED THIS TAPE, SHE WAS IMPREGNATED BY THAT INFORMATION?
WOULD IT BE SO OUTSIDE THE REALM OF YOUR SCIENTIFIC MIND TO CONSIDER THIS: THAT USING MY GIFT OF NENSHA, WHICH SOME CALL PSYCHOGRAPHY, I WAS ABLE TO BURN MY OWN
WHICH I HAVE READ WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING.
I DON'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF... BUT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT MOST OF IT TOGETHER FROM THE BOOKS AND REPORTS YOU SO THOUGHTFULLY STOCK YOUR APARTMENT WITH.
BUT, WHY DID MAI HAVE TO DIE?

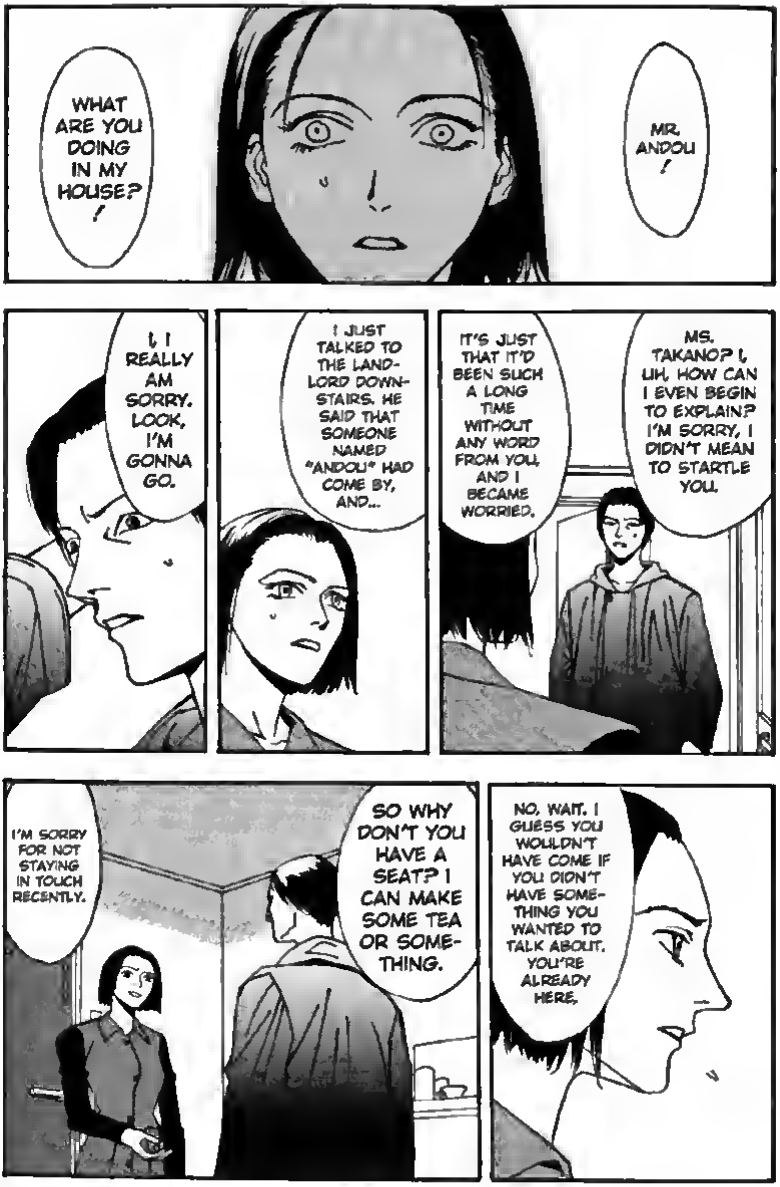
MONSTER!
YOU... YOU
MON...
MY AWARENESS AS YAMAMURA SADAKO WAS BEGUN BEFORE BIRTH.
SO THAT EVEN AS I GREW WITHIN TAKANO MAI'S WOMB, SO TOO DID MY AWARENESS OF SELF, UNTIL I CAME TO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER HER BODY.
THINK OF MAI MERELY AS A CHRYSALIS, A SINGLE STAGE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MY BIRTH. AFTER THAT BIRTH, HER BODY WAS LITTLE MORE THAN AN EMPTY SHELL... AND I DISPOSED OF IT AS SUCH.


AND I AM INSIDE YOU, AS WELL.
CAN YOU NOT FEEL IT?

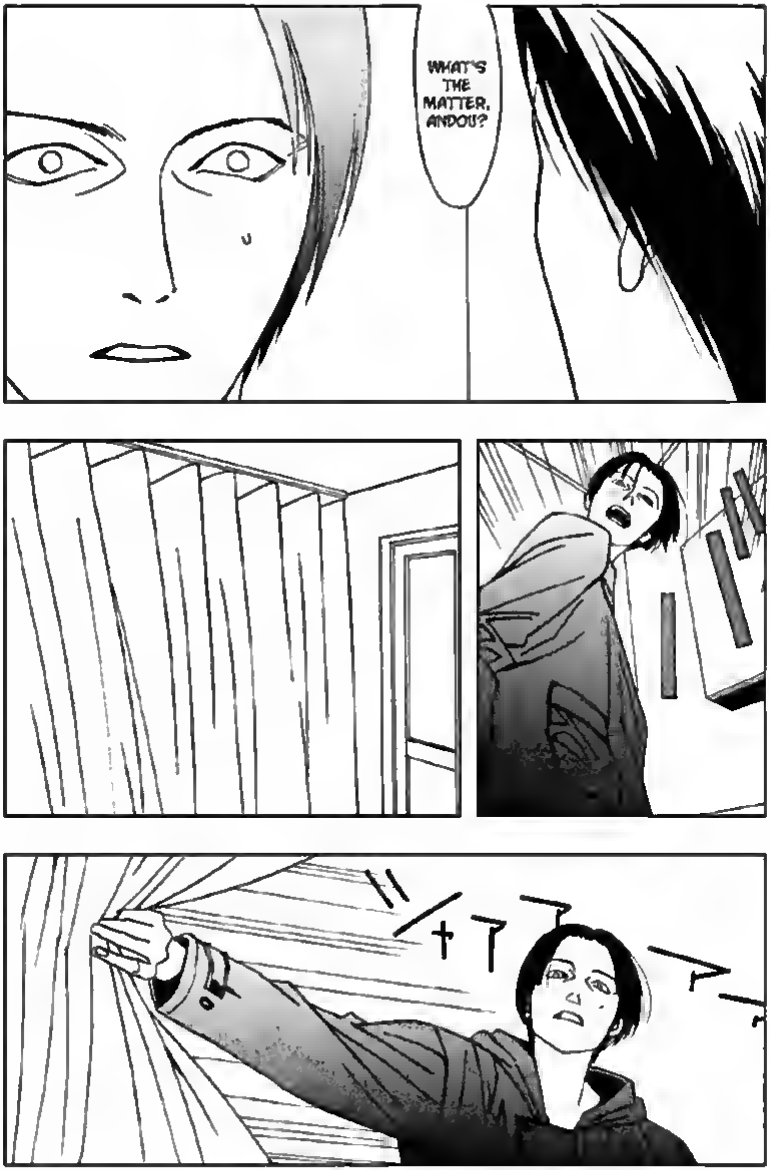

THE VIRUS!

SADAKO... WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?
SHALL I ALONE KNOW
WHAT IT IS TO BE CAST TO THE DEPTHS, LEFT ALONE TO ROT, UNKNOWN AN IN OBSCURITY? NO... I WANT ALL OF EXISTENCE
TO KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE YAMAMURA SADAKO.


AM I MAKING TOO MUCH OUT OF THIS?


MR. ANDOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE?!
MS. TAKANO? I, UH, HOW CAN I EVEN BEGIN TO EXPLAIN? I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.
IT'S JUST THAT IT'D BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME WITHOUT ANY WORD FROM YOU, AND I BECAME WORRIED.
I JUST TALKED TO THE LAND-LORD DOWN-STAIRS. HE SAID THAT SOMEONE NAMED "ANDOU" HAD COME BY, AND...
I, I REALLY AM SORRY. LOOK, I'M GONNA GO.
NO, WAIT. I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE SOME-THING YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT. YOU'RE ALREADY HERE.
SO WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A SEAT? I CAN MAKE SOME TEA OR SOME-THING.
I'M SORRY FOR NOT STAYING IN TOUCH RECENTLY.

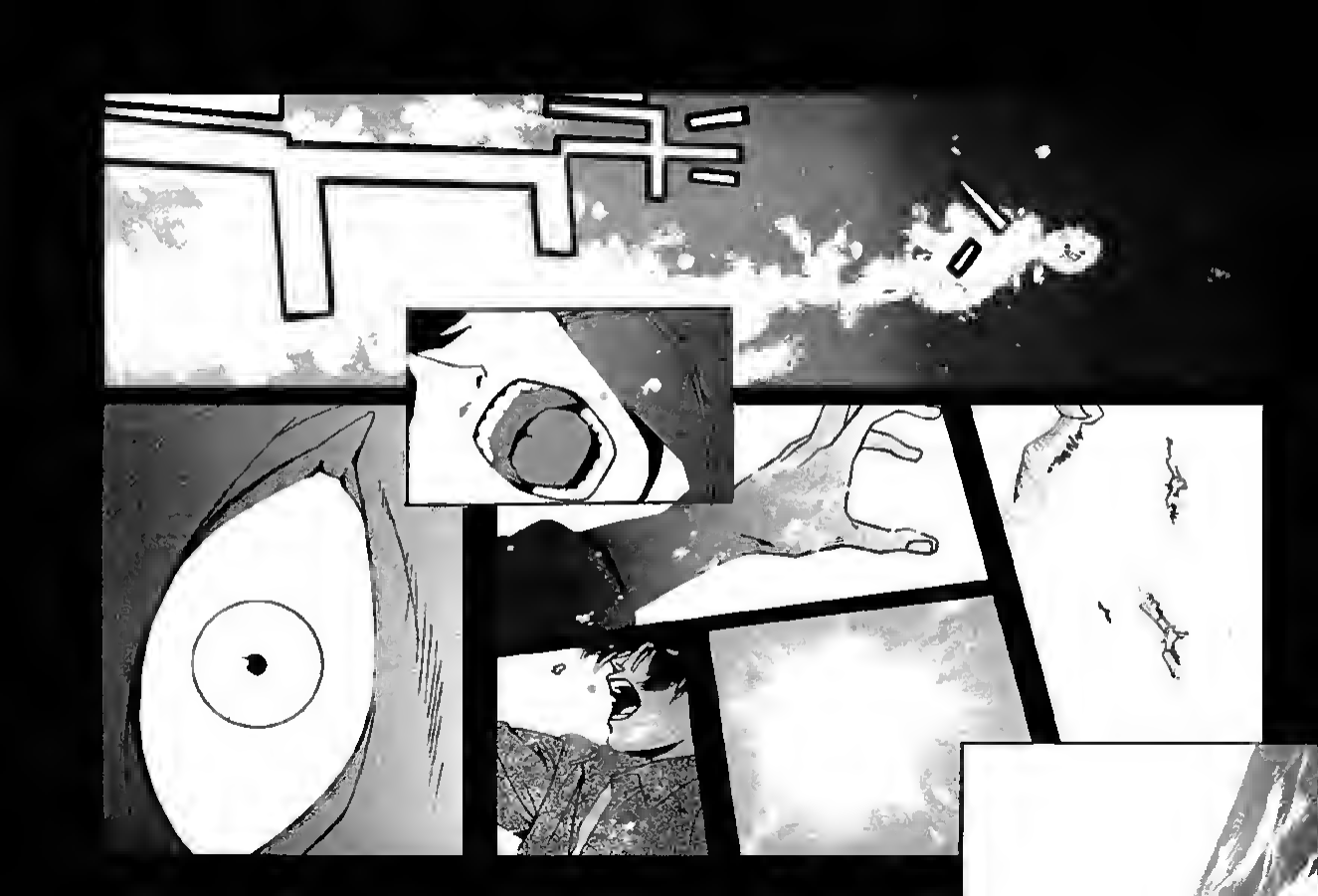
ﾌｰﾌｰ
AND THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE...
SO FAR, SIX BODIES HAVE TURNED UP EXHIBITING THE SAME SYMPTOMS AS RYUJI.
I'M SORRY, I...!
URGH


WHAT'S THE MATTER, ANDOU?

NOT FEELING QUITE YOUR-SELF, EH?

HEH
HEH
HEH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HEE
HEE
HEE
AARGH!!
HEH
HEH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

TA-
TA
KA
NO
RI!

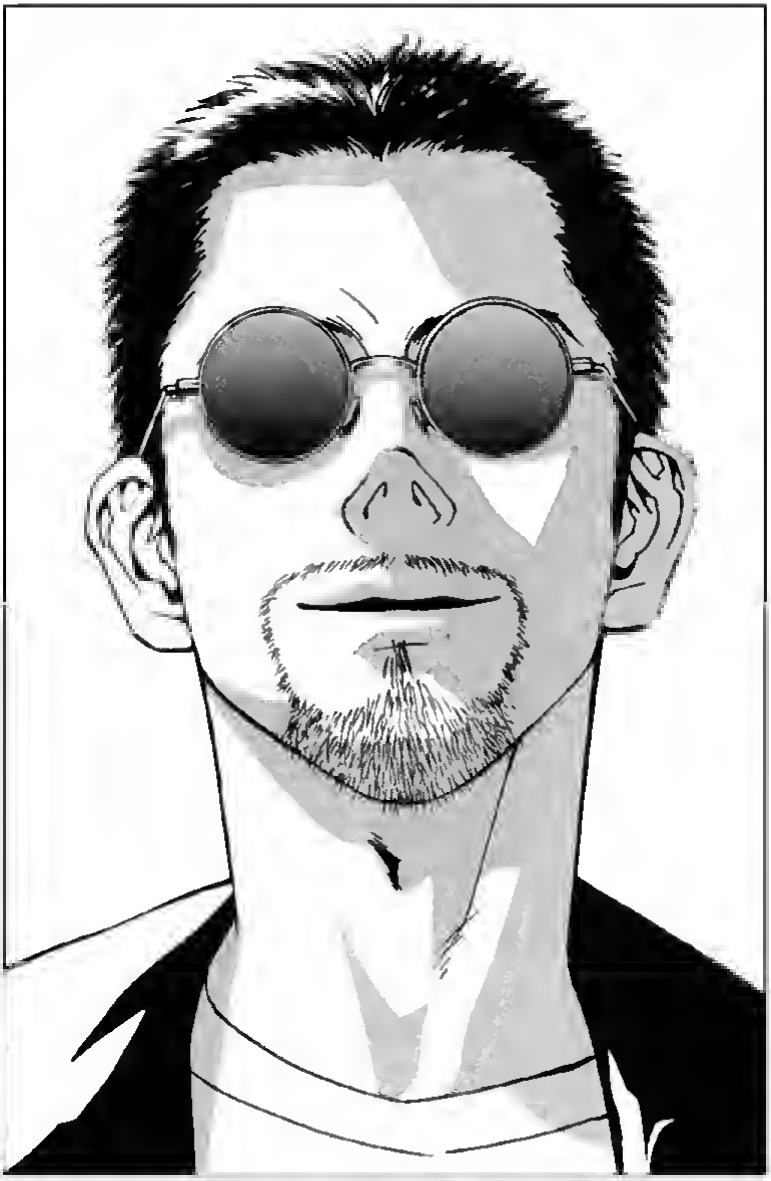


I COULD DO IT, ANDOU. WITH MY BODY.

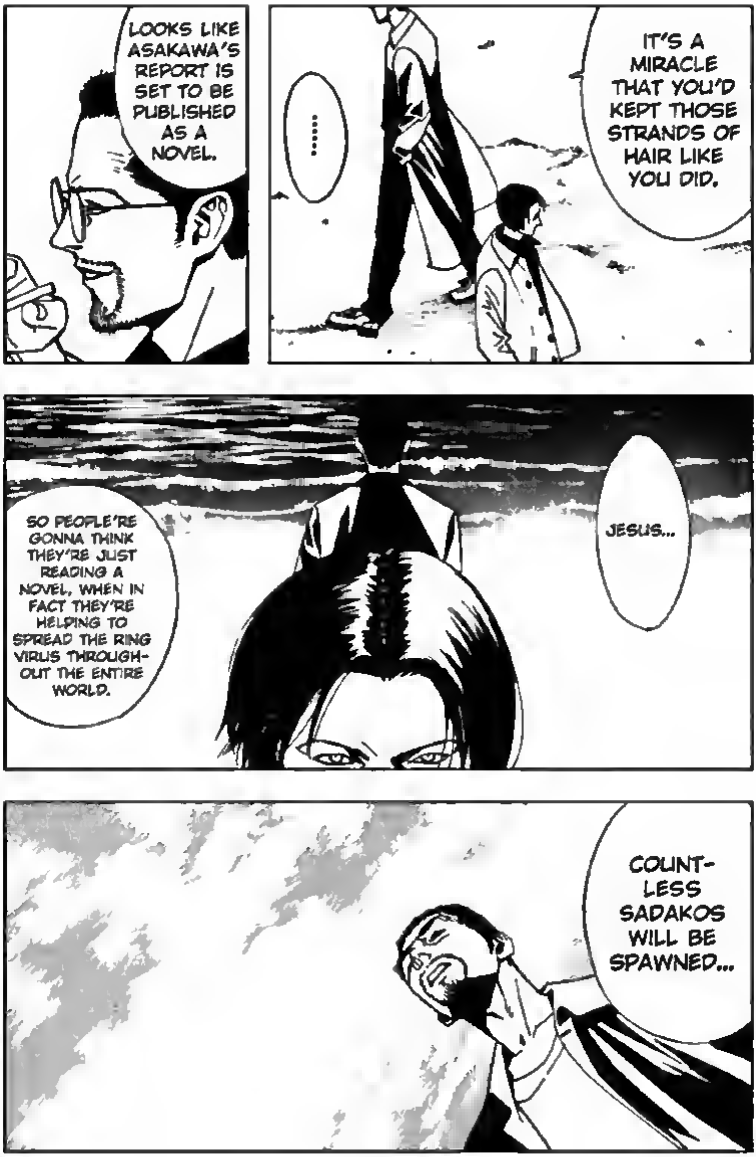
I COULD GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT.

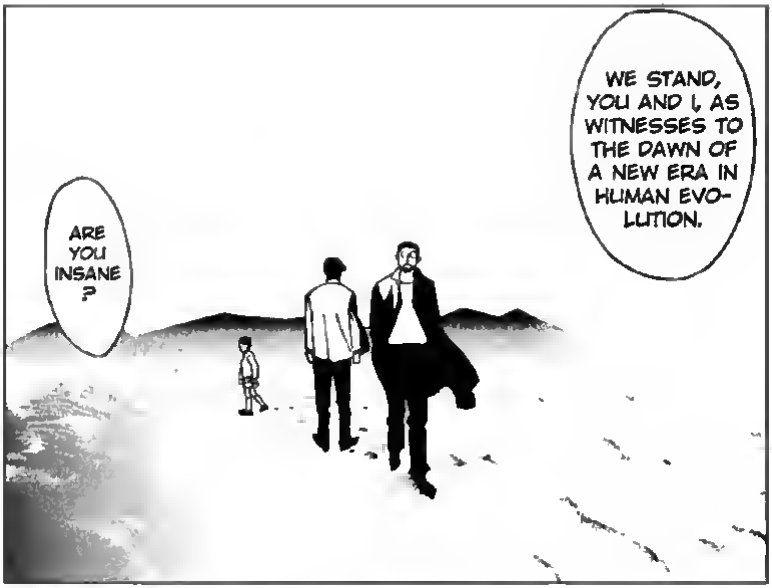
FOR ONE.
TAKA-YAMA RYUJI.
AND WHAT IS IT THAT I WANT?
RRRR

CUTE KID.

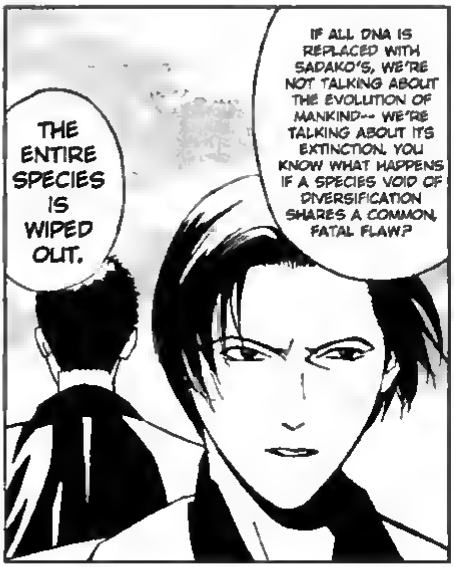


RYUJI...
I SUPPOSE YOU'VE GOTTEN EVERYTHING OUT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT THAT YOU WANTED?
AND YOU HAVEN'T?
TRY AND TAKE BETTER CARE OF HIM THIS TIME. HE IS, AFTER ALL, MY BROTHER, IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR SON BACK, THANKS TO SADAKO.


LOOKS LIKE ASAKAWA'S REPORT IS SET TO BE PUBLISHED AS A NOVEL.
.....
IT'S A MIRACLE THAT YOU'D KEPT THOSE STRANDS OF HAIR LIKE YOU DID.
SO PEOPLE'RE GONNA THINK THEY'RE JUST READING A NOVEL, WHEN IN FACT THEY'RE HELPING TO SPREAD THE RING VIRUS THROUGH-OUT THE ENTIRE WORLD.
JESUS...
COUNT-LESS SADAKOS WILL BE SPAWNED...


WE STAND, YOU AND I, AS WITNESSES TO THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA IN HUMAN EVOLUTION.
ARE YOU INSANE?

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I THINK, MY FRIEND. I THINK THAT MANKIND BROUGHT THIS ON ITSELF; THAT ALL ALONG, IT WAS UNCONSCIOUSLY PRAYING
FOR ITS OWN DESTRUCTION.


IF ALL DNA IS REPLACED WITH SADAKO'S, WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF MANKIND-- WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ITS EXTINCTION. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF A SPECIES VOID OF DIVERSIFICATION SHARES A COMMON, FATAL FLAW?
THE ENTIRE SPECIES IS WIPED OUT.

DADDY!
I WON-DER ...
THERE'S NOT A SPECIES ALIVE THAT WISHES FOR ITS OWN DESTRUC-TION.
THERE'S A WHOLE NEW FUTURE AWAITING THAT BOY.
YOUR MOM IS GONNA BE REAL SUR-PRISED WHEN SHE SEES YOU.
C'MON, SON. LET'S GO.
'K.

Rasen - The End

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